

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 254

Introduced by Assembly Member Jeffries

February 11, 2009

An act to amend Section 21055 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 254, as introduced, Jeffries. Emergency vehicles: payment of tolls.

Under existing law, it is unlawful to refuse to pay, or to evade or attempt to evade the payment of, tolls or other charges on any vehicular crossing, as defined, or toll highway.

Under existing law, the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, as defined, is exempt from specified rules of the road under certain circumstances, including when the vehicle is being driven in response to an emergency call or while engaged in rescue operations, as specified.

This bill would exempt those emergency vehicles from the payment of a toll or charge on a vehicular crossing or toll highway in those circumstances.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 21055 of the Vehicle Code is amended
- 2 to read:
- 3 21055. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle is
- 4 exempt from Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 21350), Chapter

1 3 (commencing with Section 21650), Chapter 4 (commencing with
2 Section 21800), Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 21950),
3 Chapter 6 (commencing with 22100), Chapter 7 (commencing
4 with Section 22348), Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 22450),
5 Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 22500), ~~and~~ Chapter 10
6 (commencing with Section 22650), *and Article 3 (commencing*
7 *with Section 23300) of Chapter 13* of this division, and Article 3
8 (commencing with Section 38305) and Article 4 (commencing
9 with Section 38312) of Chapter 5 of Division 16.5, under all of
10 the following conditions:

11 (a) If the vehicle is being driven in response to an emergency
12 call or while engaged in rescue operations or is being used in the
13 immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law or
14 is responding to, but not returning from, a fire alarm, except that
15 fire department vehicles are exempt whether directly responding
16 to an emergency call or operated from one place to another as
17 rendered desirable or necessary by reason of an emergency call
18 and operated to the scene of the emergency or operated from one
19 fire station to another or to some other location by reason of the
20 emergency call.

21 (b) If the driver of the vehicle sounds a siren as may be
22 reasonably necessary and the vehicle displays a lighted red lamp
23 visible from the front as a warning to other drivers and pedestrians.

24 A siren shall not be sounded by an authorized emergency vehicle
25 except when required under this section.